

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF
PIPING.

A Chinese was charged with being in unlawful possession of a quantity of drain-piping, the property of the Public Works Department.

It was stated that defendant was arrested at Yaumatei Ferry, while carrying the piping in a basket.

Mr. F. J. Ling, of the P.W.D., claimed the piping as Government property.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced defendant to six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

ALLEGED THREATENING LETTER.

A Chinese was charged, on remand, with sending a threatening letter to the manager of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, and demanding \$5,000.

Mr. W. B. Hind appeared for the defendant.

Inspector Terrett stated that Mr. King, A.S.P., had received the original letter from Canton, which was alleged to have been sent to the manager of the Railway, and the Police would like the case to be remanded until they could probe deeper into the matter and gather further evidence. If they decided not to prosecute defendant they would notify the Magistrate and Mr. Hind.

Mr. Hind suggested that the case should be heard on Thursday, as he was expected to attend camp next week.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case accordingly.

JACK TARS' EXPENSIVE NIGHT
OUT.

Three sailors—James Boswarick, J. Bowden and T. Henslop—were charged with breaking five panes of glass at No. 5, Spring Garden Lane, on Saturday night; also with behaving in a riotous and disorderly manner.

The mistress of the house stated that she refused defendants admittance. They then proceeded to the back garden, and, scaling the wall, gained entrance to the house. The second defendant assaulted one of the inmates, and also smashed five panes of glass.

An Indian Police Reservist said that, hearing shouting and the blowing of police whistles, he hurried to the place and found a large crowd collected at the entrance. The first defendant was standing guard at the door, while the second defendant was inside. On Sergeant Floyd trying to gain entrance to the house, the first defendant stopped him. Sergeant Floyd then went back to the Police Station for assistance, and returned a few minutes later with several constables and effected the defendants' arrest. The second defendant was trying to break open the door to the second floor with a stool. Witness attempted to get in to the house himself, but was ordered back by the first defendant. There were several soldiers about the place.

Sergeant Floyd corroborated the evidence of the previous witness. He said that hearing the screams of women he went up to the house and saw the first defendant standing at the door. The second defendant came out of the house and declared that money had been stolen from him. Witness questioned the mistress, who had by this time barred the doors, and she denied the charge. Witness then advised defendants to go away, but they did not do so. They behaved rather violently, and he had to arrest them. He did not think that the third defendant had anything to do with the matter.

Third Defendant—I should like to know whether I was standing at the door or in the centre of the road?—Witness—In the centre of the road.

Addressing the magistrate, witness said the crowd was large; it was composed of soldiers, sailors and merchant seamen; and, thinking it would be advisable to take defendants to the station, as there was likely to be trouble, he marched them away.

At this stage the magistrate discharged Henslop, the third defendant, as there was no evidence against him.

The first defendant said he was a first-class stoker. He and the second defendant went to Spring Garden Lane, where they had been previously, and entered the house. After leaving, he put his hands into his trouser pocket, and found he was nearly £7 short. He informed the second defendant, and asked him to see if his money was safe. The second defendant searched his pockets, only to find his money also gone. They went back to the house, and, as they tried to enter it, the door was closed. He did not want to cause any trouble; he only wanted to get his money back.

The second defendant told a similar story. He said he reported the robbery to the Police Sergeant, who informed him that, as there was no proof, nothing could be done. The Sergeant asked him to go away, but he refused, as he did not see why he should lose good money. He was neither violent nor drunk.

Inspector Sim—How was it that you were bleeding?—Witness—I scratched my hand while climbing up the stairs.

Mr. J. R. Wood remarked that he believed the evidence for the prosecution and fined defendants \$10 each. The second defendant was also ordered to pay \$1.50 compensation for the smashed panes of glass.

SPORT.
HONGKONG CRICKET LEAGUE.

AVERAGES.

Ng Sze Kwong still heads the batting list, but with a much reduced average, on account of small scores in his last two matches. Abbas, of Craigengower, who is second, has made a name as a heavy hitter and has several good scores to his credit, but it is unlikely that he will remain at the top very long. Pearce and Muriel have not been in view for some weeks now, and we may expect a big turn up when the Club plays its next league match. Stalker, by adding 20 to his aggregate on Saturday, still has most runs to his credit (228 in 7 innings).

Brayshaw failed to bowl up to his usual standard on Saturday and the R.G.A. batsmen made short work of his average, so that Hamilton returns to top place among the bowlers. Cobb, who took six more wickets on Saturday at the same cost as his average to date, is bowling consistently well and is likely to remain near the top of the table. Graham, of Craigengower, as the result of another good performance, comes well up the table and will probably be found still higher before the end of the season.

No bowling analysis was kept of the League match between the Navy and the Middlesex. This is very unfortunate, in view of the fact that there must have been some good performances.

The averages corrected to date are as follows:—

BATTING AVERAGES.					
	Innings.	Not out.	Highest score.	Total.	
Ng Sze Kwong, C.R.C.C.	2	105	214	58.6	
M. H. Abbas, C.C.C.	4	1	39	136	45.3
T. E. Pearce, H.K.C.C.	5	1	65	148	37
Chow Yat Kwong, C.R.C.C.	4	0	75	148	37
H. E. Muriel, H.K.C.C.	4	0	76	148	37
E. W. Hamilton, C.S.C.C.	5	1	58	133	33.2
J. Stalker, K.C.C.	7	0	72	228	32.5
Lt. Murray, H.K.C.C.	5	0	65	180	32
G. E. Marley, U.C.C.	7	0	43	208	29.7
A. H. Runjahn, U.C.C.	7	1	72	171	28.6
D. M. Goodall, C.S.C.C.	6	1	82	141	25.2
W. Graham, C.C.C.	6	1	52	134	22.8
W. Dixon, C.S.C.C.	5	0	58	133	26.6
Rev. Hastings, Navy	3	0	47	73	24.3
G. Lee, C.R.C.C.	6	1	33	110	22.8
Sig. Hack, Navy	5	0	45	110	22.8

BOWLING AVERAGES.				
	O.	R.	E.	W.
E. W. Hamilton, C.S.C.C.	64	167	26	7.4
P. H. Cobb, K.C.C.	70	186	25	7.4
J. Stalker, K.C.C.	37	82	11	7.4
Lt. Col. Morgan, H.K.C.C.	29	96	11	8.7
L. E. Donnelly, H.K.C.C.	71	276	91	8.9
K. Brayshaw, U.C.C.	67	165	9.1	
Rev. Hastings, Navy	28	78	8	9.5
W. Graham, C.C.C.	67	212	9.6	
R. Pearson, K.C.C.	85	257	10.2	
Capt. Gray, H.K.C.C.	29	84	8	10.6
Gr. Boock, R.G.A.	61	207	10.8	
L. E. U. Bird, C.S.C.C.	35	88	8	11
W. Dixon, Navy	23	102	9	11.3
W. Grimmett, C.C.C.	51	192	11.3	
G. E. Marley, U.C.C.	77	251	11.6	
Ng Sze Kwong, C.R.C.C.	58	235	12.1	

*Saturday's match Navy and Middlesex not included.

LAWN TENNIS.

"BRADLEY" CUP COMPETITION.

The following is the draw for the "Bradley" Cup Competition for Championship Singles, open to Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the Regular Army in Hongkong:—

L/Cpl. Tebbitts, Mdx., Bye; L/Cpl. Sewell, Mdx. v. Sapper Townsend, R.E.; Corpl. Watts, 87th Co. R.E. v. L/Cpl. Mackenzie, Mdx.; Sapper Horlop, R.E. v. Corpl. Heath, R.E.; Corpl. Johns, R.E. v. Sapper Cruickshanks, R.E.; Serjt. Pitt, R.A.M.C. v. Bdr. Page, 83th Co. R.A.; S. Sgt. Lyth, A.S.C. v. C.S.M. Youngman, D.E., R.A.; Serjt. Edgeler, 87th Co. R.A. v. Serjt. Frost, A.S.C.; Private Grove, Mdx. v. Private Gleeson, A.S.C.; Private Ross, Mdx. v. Serjt. Ives, 87th Co. R.A.; Driver Townsend, A.S.C. v. Sapper Wilcox, R.E.; Sapper Jones, R.E. v. Private Hicks, R.A.M.C.; Serjt. Talford, 83th Co. R.A. v. L/Cpl. Watts, Mdx. v. Gunner H. Cooper, 88th Co. R.A. v. Corpl. Betts, R.E.; Condr. Davidson, S.T.C. v. L/Cpl. Todd, R.E.; L/Cpl. Baker, R.E. v. Corpl. Woolman, R.A.M.C.; Sapper Feakes, R.E. v. Q.M.S. Sherreff, A.S.C.; L/Cpl. Fawcett, Mdx. v. 2nd-Cpl. Charters, R.E.; L/Cpl. Glenney, A.S.C. v. Serjt. Taylor, R.A.M.C.; Serjt. Theyers, R.A.M.C. v. Mr. Gr. May, D.E., R.A.; Corpl. Adams, Mdx. v. Serjt. McKeechie, R.A.M.C.; Serjt. McGregor, R.E. v. Sapper McKnight, R.E.; Serjt. Parkin, Mdx. v. Bdr. Drummond, 88th Co. R.A.; S. Mr. Anderson, R.E. v. L/Cpl. Booten, A.O.C.; Serjt. Martin, 87th Co. R.A. v. Serjt. Griffiths, 88th Co. R.A.; Sapper Gordon, R.E. v. Corpl. Durose, R.E.; S. Mr. Jewsbury, R.E. v. Serjt. Davis, D.E.; W.A.; C.Q.M.S. Baker, R.E. v. Q.M.S. Wilson, R.E.; Sapper Gillard, R.A. (H.Q.) v. Private Coan, Mdx.; Private Knight, A.S.C. v. Bdr. Kirkham, 87th Co. R.A.; Corpl. White, R.E., Bye; Bdr. Athorne, 83th Co. R.A., Bye.

The first round must be played by December 12th, the second round by the 19th inst., the third by the 23rd inst., and the fourth by the 26th inst. The semi-finals and final will be played on dates and courts to be fixed by the Committee.

The Services Entertainment Fund is supplying balls and some of the prizes.

THE FLOODS IN NORTH
CHINA.

DANGER OF FRESH INUNDATIONS.

The following is a copy of a letter received by Mr. Roger S. Greene, vice-chairman of the American Red Cross Flood Relief Committee, from the Rev. F. S. Hughes, of the Church of England Mission at Ch'ichow, Chihli, which shows that, in spite of the cessation of the rains in the north, not only are there many places where the flood water is still standing, but some where there is even danger of fresh inundations during the winter through the blocking of river channels by ice! The need for both temporary and permanent relief measures is still urgent:—

DEAR MR. GREENE:—May I ask you for some special attention to the problem of the 'r'ut'ao! The immediate occasion is that a number of villages in An'ping-shien have been freshly flooded within the last three or four weeks. Some of my workers reached the village of Hsiao' in last week to see about helping houseless people to rebuild, but they hesitate to ask for funds for the purpose because it appears likely that any buildings may be swept away in the near future. The present flood water is not deep, only a foot or two; but it is still flowing through the village streets. This village has about 400 families, and some 300 or 400 chieh of houses have fallen; probably most of the rest are doomed to come down by the spring (apart from any further floods), the water having been up above the dam course in the walls. The floors of the houses are wet mud. But the great fear is that when ice begins to form on the river and float down it will pile up and block the stream, causing it to pour out over the village and destroy the whole place. We do not know how many villages in that neighbourhood are in like case, as the others are mostly inaccessible, the water being too shallow; boats; there may be 20 or 30 such villages, but I cannot say.

This, then, is an immediate crisis. But it is typical of what happens year after year along this part of the 'P'ut'ao' where (for about 100 li from west to east) it has no fixed course, and is constantly shifting up its beds and making new ones. For the last 5 or 6 years I have been trying to advertise this situation, but have only so far been able to raise a small sum in successive years. For the more important matter of prevention there is still no policy. Engineers seem unwilling to face it, e.g., Mr. ... as the result of his recent hurried visit; says that there are not sufficient relief funds for such a great work as embanking, i.e., dyking, this river; and he talks about leaving it free to wander over this tract of country for the next 40 years until the whole area has been raised by silting to a proper level.

But, we who are concerned with the lives and happiness of the present generation cannot acquiesce in such a verdict if it means leaving these multitudes to suffer like this year after year. We contend that, not merely as a matter of charity but as a matter of business, it is well worth while to put a lot of capital into this work, the expense of which is being secured on the lands benefited and on river dues on the traffic. For whenever the river runs within its banks we can get (usually) splendid crops twice a year, and the river is thronged with boats taking merchandise up and down. A few years ago when we were starting this agitation we were told that a few years previously Mr. von Hanneken, of Tientsin, had himself caused the river to be surveyed, and had offered the Government to put it in order at his own expense if he might have free transit for his coal barges from Chengtinfu for a number of years. This shows that the affair can be regarded as a sound investment.

As a layman I can offer no opinion as to what ought to be done to the river, whether dyking, dredging, or straightening its course, or a combination of all the three. I only claim that the situation should be faced. If it were, e.g., in Tientsin, i.e., under direct observation of the Government and the public, there can be no doubt that some measures would be devised. "Out of sight, out of mind."

Such, in brief, is the constant problem of the 'P'ut'ao. This year the problem of floods has come before the whole community. But here it is before us every year.

So I ask for anything that you can do to secure action in behalf of the people in An'ping-shien in view of their immediate danger, and in view of the general problem of the 'P'ut'ao.

At this juncture there seem to be only three alternatives:—

- (1) to leave the people to destruction;
- (2) to remove them to places of safety;
- (3) to control the river.

If I can be of any use by going anywhere, please command me. But I lay claim to no special knowledge.—I am, Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. S. HUGHES.

Ch'ichow, November 15th, 1917.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Football Association was held in Victoria Barracks on Monday evening to arrange details in connection with the exhibition matches to be played on Boxing Day in aid of charity. Mr. McFavish occupied the chair. It was decided to arrange two matches, one to take place at 2.30 p.m., which should be styled 'Civilians' v. 'Services'; the players to be chosen from the Second Division; and the other to represent England v. Scotland, and to take place at 4 p.m., first division players participating. The Sub-Committee, chosen to select the teams and arrange details, were for the England v. Scotland match—Messrs. Stewart, Durose, Walden, McTavish, May and Lister; for the 'Civilians' v. 'Services' match—Messrs. Goldenberg, Pasco, Griffiths, Devine, Th. Lan Shang, Frost and Durose. Both committees will meet at 6 p.m. on the 17th instant.

The decision of the Referee's Board, on the referee's report of the Navy v. Club match was read, and it was decided to leave the matter to be dealt with by the H.K.F.C. officials.

STANDARD WAGE FOR
SEAMEN.

OLD RATE PRACTICALLY DOUBLED.

The Shipping Controller announced on October 3rd that he had recently set up an Inter-departmental Committee, known as the Mercantile Marine Conciliation Committee, to deal expeditiously with cases of difference between shipowners and seamen, and that as a result of the work of this body he was satisfied of the expediency of establishing a national rate or rates of wages, and that machinery was being perfected for the purpose.

At a conference held at the Ministry of Shipping on October 5th, an interim decision was made advancing the rate of wages for foreign-going ships for seamen to £11 and for firemen to £11 10s., these rates to rule at all United Kingdom ports and to be without prejudice to the national port rates to be determined by the National Board. The rates for petty officers and stewards are to be advanced in like proportion, and the men in coasting and home trade steamers are to be similarly entitled to new rates to be determined by the National Board at a level corresponding to the foreign-going steamer rates.

It is announced that the remuneration of officers and of engineers will also be forthwith reviewed by the National Board, and that the determinations arrived at are also to be retrospective, as in the case of the seamen and firemen, to the date of signing articles, but not earlier than October 5th, 1917.

The effect of this arrangement, and the national object aimed at, is to create, for every port in the United Kingdom, uniform and standard rates of pay. Agreements opened after October 6th have been prepared which will give effect to this decision, and the Controller appeals to all who are now serving on short-term articles not to hold up their ships, but to recognize that the new national rates will be applied to them as from the date of signing new articles or, in the case of coasting vessels, from the date of first leaving a United Kingdom port after October 6th.

COST BORNE BY THE STATE.

The Times shipping correspondent says the new standard rates for seamen and firemen of £11 and £11 10s. respectively, to take effect, as the result of an interim decision, as from October 6th, represent a very substantial advance on the rates hitherto current. Hitherto the monthly wages for long-distance voyages from London and Southampton have been 48 for seamen and 23 10s. for firemen, in addition to which, of course, the men receive food on an admittedly generous scale. The rates have been gradually advanced during the war. Before the war they were 25 10s. and 26 respectively, so that as compared with pre-war rates the wages for seamen from these ports have now been exactly doubled and those for firemen nearly doubled.

Hitherto the custom has been for men employed in the North Atlantic trade to receive 10s. a month more than those in the eastern routes. Both in South Wales and on the North-East coast higher wages have lately been paid than in London, and it was obvious when standard rates were proposed that all wages would have to be levelled up to the highest prevailing at any of the ports. These highest rates have, now been considerably exceeded; for in the Bristol Channel and North-East coast ports a flat rate of 20 for both seamen and firemen has usually been paid. Frequently the cargo steamship managements have been obliged to offer higher wages than those in force for liners, where the conditions are more comfortable.

The attitude of shipowners towards the increased rates will not probably be that during the war they will hardly be directly concerned. They know well, too, that the men have borne, themselves magnificently, in face of the enemy's attacks, and the some increase during the war was clearly their due. As nearly the whole of the British Mercantile Marine is now requisitioned by the Government, Blue-book terms of hire which were based originally on the pre-war rates, the Government, by agreement, already pays the difference between the pre-war wages and those hitherto prevailing. It will be the State which will pay the further substantial increases now announced, which meant the whole country will pay. Some account has lately been given in The Times of very considerable increases in freight rates which are shortly to come into operation in view of increased working expenses, and it has been pointed out that it is the State, not the shipowners, which will receive these increased rates. These fall ultimately on the consumers, by whom the higher wages, like the increased cost of insurance and other working expenses, are borne. Nevertheless, the present decision will scarcely decrease the number of difficult problems to be faced by British shipowners after the war, when it is fully anticipated, competition will be exceedingly keen at the level of working costs obtaining in the different countries will be a matter of the greatest importance.

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INTIMATIONS

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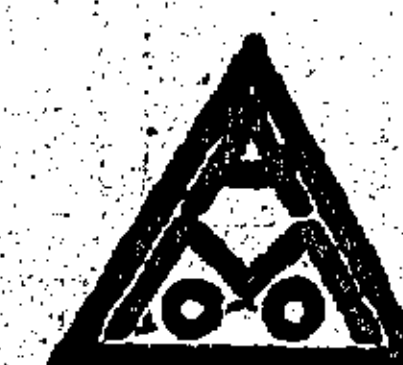
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THE WAR.

RUSSIAN PEOPLE DENOUNCE THE ARMISTICE.

PROTESTS AGAINST A SEPARATE PEACE.

FRANCO-BRITISH TROOPS IN ITALY.

AMERICA'S NAVAL PROGRAMME.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

ENEMY RAID REPULSED.

LONDON, December 10th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There were outpost encounters westward of Graincourt to-day.

An attempted raid southward of Lens last night was successfully repulsed, and we captured a few prisoners.

The enemy's artillery is more active in the Messines sector.

Our aeroplanes on Saturday bombed hostile billets and fired many rounds at ground targets.

Two of our machines are missing.

LIVELY ARTILLERY ACTIONS.
PARIS, December 10th.

A communiqué reports fairly lively artillery actions at Sapegnoul, Maisonneuve-Champagne, and on the right of the Meuse.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

LONDON, December 9th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy's artillery was active last night southward of Cambrai, on the right bank of the Scarpe, and southward of the Lens-Paschendale sector.

ENEMY ATTACK REPULSED.

PARIS, December 9th.
A communiqué says:—The enemy's attempt near Bezonvaux was repulsed, with appreciable losses, after a sharp fight.

ITALIAN FRONT.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALIAN FRONT.

FRENCH TROOPS HOLD DANGEROUS LINE.

LONDON, December 10th.
Reuter's Correspondent with the French forces in Italy telegraphs:—The first shots between the Frenchmen, commanded by General Duchesne, and the Austrians were exchanged in the sector which the French have taken over. It is one of the most exposed and most dangerous on the whole front, and a strong hold of the position is of the utmost importance. Their defensive zone is being thoroughly organised on the same scale as in France.

ENEMY'S AIMLESS BOMBARDMENT.

LONDON, December 9th.
Reuter's Correspondent at Italian Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, states:—The Austro-Germans are continuously bombarding the positions occupied by the British and French troops, especially the Montello Hills, where the British troops are engaged. No particular object is apparently being served.

EARLIER CABLES.

ITALIAN ACTIVITY.

LONDON, December 9th.
An Italian official communiqué says:—The batteries on the Asiago Plateau heavily shelled hostile forces.

A French patrol between Brenta and the Piave brought back prisoners.

Our aeroplanes effectively bombed the lines of communication on the Asiago Plateau, machine-gunning the troops.

Airships dropped four tons of bombs on enemy concentrations.

BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS OCCUPY POSITIONS.

LONDON, December 9th.
Reuter's Correspondent at the Italian Headquarters states that the British and French troops have now occupied their assigned positions in the front line.

Montello Hills, which the British strongly hold, extend for ten miles and are situated in the curve formed by the Piave, where it debouches from the mountains to the plain. The Montello region commands thirty miles of the Valley of Piave, and overlooks two main roads by which the enemy can invade the country on one side of the Piave, coming from the Feltre Hills, which form the last bulwark in the way of the Austro-German descent from the eastern side of Monte Grappa.

EARLIER CABLES.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

AMERICA'S NAVAL PROGRAMME.

WASHINGTON, December 10th.

Mr. Daniels, Secretary to the Navy, in his annual report asks in the budget for the coming year for one billion dollars, but he explains that it will be necessary to ask for additional funds as the Congressional session proceeds. He quotes the following Navy increases since January 1st:—Naval force: officers and men, from 125,000 to 320,000; reserve officers and men, from a few hundreds only to 49,000; monthly expenditure, from 3,000,000 to 40,000,000 dollars; ships in commission, from 300 to over 1,000.

The establishment abroad of American patrol stations has been authorised and will be operating in 1918.

He suggests an international navy after the war to keep universal peace, each power assigning units thereto proportionate to its wealth and population, and thereby obviating a competitive programme of costly naval construction.

EARLIER CABLES.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND TURKEY RACIAL TYRANNIES.

NEW YORK, December 9th.

At the Pennsylvania Society dinner, Mr. Lodge, the Republican Leader of the Senate, said, there must be no truce or bargaining with Germany. Her word was worthless. There was no hope for a final settlement except by physical guarantees won on the battlefield.

Colonel Roosevelt said that Austria-Hungary and Turkey were not nations, but racial tyrannies. Neither democracy nor civilisation was safe while those States existed in their present form.

DESTROYER "JACOB JONES" TORPEDOED.

WASHINGTON, December 9th.

The American destroyer Jacob Jones was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone on Thursday.

Many of the crew were lost, including the Commander, who is the brother-in-law of the Secretary to the Navy.

THE COMMANDER RESCUED.

It is officially announced that the Commander of the torpedoed destroyer was saved, with 42 of the crew.

AUSTRIA'S TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS.

AMSTERDAM, December 9th.

Addressing the Hungarian Delegation, Count Andrássy declared that Austria must have Lower Austria, and that it would be a mistake to leave Valonia in the hands of the Italians. Austria held large regions of Italy as a pawn.

LATEST CABLES.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

RUSSIAN MASSES AGAINST PEACE.

LONDON, December 10th.

There are indications that the Russian masses are increasingly disgusted with the Bolsheviks' methods. All parties, except the Maximalists, have boycotted the municipal election in Petrograd. The Constituent Assembly meets this week, but it will be a farce as the Maximalists will certainly dissolve it unless they have a majority.

Meanwhile, the Central Committees and most of the Socialist Party parties have sent a manifesto declaring against a separate peace and denouncing the Maximalists' high-handedness in negotiating a separate armistice without the approval of the people or consulting the Allies. The armistice, therefore, is not binding.

The chief Maximalist delegate, who made the negotiations, announces that the Germans have agreed not to transfer troops to other fronts, but they refused to give a binding undertaking. The Delegate naively complains that they displayed no enthusiasm for the Russian proposals of fraternisation with the men in order to make arrangements for over-riding the generals.

EARLIER CABLES.

KALEDIN FORCES GAINING STRENGTH.

PETROGRAD, December 9th.

The Bolshevik Agency announces that the newspaper Don publishes telegrams from the Don region indicating that General Kaledin is at Novokherkassk. All the other Don districts are in the hands of the Soviets, and the Ukrainian Parliament.

It is believed that General Kaledin is preparing an armed demonstration. The Government is taking the most vigorous measures to repel him.

GENERAL NATIONALISATION.

LONDON, December 10th.

A Russian message states that the Bolshevik régime proclaims all lands, live and dead stock, farm produce and buildings to be national property.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF LAND ABOLISHED.

The private ownership of land is abolished and the landowners' houses will serve as public schools, hospitals, shelters and theatres. Local land committees have been ordered to safeguard the property from destruction or pillage.

BOLSHEVIKS' SIGNIFICANT PROCLAMATION.

LONDON, December 10th.

A Russian message gives the details of a significant proclamation by the Bolshevik régime which contains admissions indicating the powerful counter forces now working.

GENERAL KALEIDIN'S ACTIVITY.

The proclamation, after attempting to excite class passions and accusing the Cadets of lavishly financing the counter-revolution, states that General Kaledin, assisted by General Korniloff, has declared a state of war in the Don region, hindering the supply of bread at the Front, and that General Kaledin is collecting forces and is menacing Moscow and other towns; has arrested the military revolutionary committee, and is endeavouring to cut off the supply of bread from Siberia to the Front.

RUMOUR OF PEACE OVER- TURES FROM GERMANY.

LONDON, December 9th.

The pacifist quarters are circulating rumours of renewed peace overtures from Germany.

The rumours are discredited, but the matter will probably be raised in the debate on the Vote of Credit on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the speech of Count Czernin to the Hungarian Delegation at Budapest is regarded as foreshadowing that the Austrians will participate in a big German offensive on the Western Front.

Count Czernin said:—If the general war situation assumes a different aspect which is not impossible if big events happen on other fronts, then I fearfully welcome the moment which found us fighting on other fronts with our Allies.

RUSO-GERMAN TRUCE.

ARMISTICE DELEGATES ARRIVE AT PETROGRAD.

PETROGRAD, December 8th.

The Bolshevik Agency announces that a meeting of the Petrograd Soviet has received the armistice delegates, who presented a report. Its discussion was adjourned.

Bourgeois newspapers, commenting on the armistice, accuse the Bolsheviks of being willing to negotiate at all points.

The Soviet press replies to these attacks, declaring the Government Soviets have not concluded an armistice nor peace contrary to the Russian or Allied peoples' interests.

CONDITIONS OF THE ARMISTICE.

PETROGRAD, December 9th.

The Maximalists announce that a twelve days' armistice agreement has been signed at Brest-Litovsk. Aircraft flights into enemy country and also ten versta within our own lines have been stopped. Troops numbering a division or over may not be moved unless orders were given prior to December 5th.

The Pravda says that the Maximalists have proposed an armistice for six months.

ORGY OF DRUNKENNESS.

PETROGRAD, December 9th.

Crowds of sailors on Saturday sacked the wine cellars at the Winter Palace and sold thousands of bottles of very expensive wine in the streets. Drunken soldiers were lying about in the snow. The People's Commissaries sent the Red Guards, who flooded the cellars.

In consequence of soldiers looting wine cellars at the Winter Palace, the Government has taken measures to destroy all stocks of alcohol.

FIGHTING IN THE CAUCASUS.

LONDON, December 8th.

A Russian official wireless message states:—General Karauloff is attacking at two places in the Caucasus and at Rada, Ukraine, drawing troops to the Don region and hindering the distribution of the Bolshevik suppressive military forces.

A proclamation says the revolution is endangered and armed resistance will be offered the counter-revolutionaries. It decrees that all places where counter-revolutionary detachments are discovered shall be in a state of siege and that negotiations of any kind are forbidden. People and railway men assisting the counter-revolutionaries are threatened with the direst penalties and the leaders of the conspiracy are declared outlaws.

COTTON-SPINNERS' WAGES.

QUESTION SATISFACTORILY SETTLED.

LONDON, December 10th.

The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and the Bolton Master Cotton Spinners' Association have approved and recommended the settlement which was called earlier. There is little doubt that the meetings of the operatives' organisations to-morrow will resolve similarly.

There is general satisfaction throughout Lancashire that the wages question has been settled for at least six months.

SETTLEMENT RECOMMENDED AT MANCHESTER.

LONDON, December 9th.

A conference of cotton employers and operatives was held at Manchester at the suggestion of the Ministry of Labour. It was agreed to recommend the following settlement of the wages question:—That an advance of 15 per cent. be paid from the week ending December 15th, after which date there will be no change until the week ending 10th June, 1918.

SETTLEMENT CONFIRMED.

LONDON, December 9th.

The delegates of the card-room workers and spinners have confirmed the provisional settlement, and it is anticipated that the weavers will decide similarly on Monday.

EQUADOR SEVERS RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.

QUAYAQUIL, December 9th.

It is officially announced that Ecuador has severed relations with Germany.

REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT CREATED.

LISBON, December 10th.

The Oporto revolution has been successful.

The Government has resigned, and Senhor Alfonso Costa has formed a Provisional Government, including Senhor Sidonio Pais, ex-Minister at Berlin.

RESIGNATION OF GOVERNMENT.

LISBON, December 9th.

After three days' fierce fighting between troops faithful to the Government and revolutionaries under General Pais, the Government, in order to avoid disastrous dissensions in the Army, has proposed a cessation of hostilities and has resigned.

Lisbon is militarily controlled.

Parliament lacks a quorum.

Some infantry regiments, a cavalry regiment and part of an artillery regiment are supporting the revolutionaries.

Rocio railway station has been damaged by hand grenades.

The tramway service is entirely suspended.

The cruiser Vasco da Gama and the torpedo-boat Guadiana fired against the town.

GOVERNMENT TROOPS LOSE HEAVILY.

Revolutionaries, entrenched in Edward the Seventh Park, repelled the Government troops with heavy losses.

When the Vasco da Gama, on which the Ministers were installed, fired on the city, General Pais sent a wireless message saying that if the bombardment did not cease the forts would reply, upon which the firing ceased.

LISBON TRANQUIL.

MADRID, December 10th.

The Spanish Minister at Lisbon has sent a message stating that tranquillity has been restored.

PORTUGAL AFFIRMS ADHERENCE TO ALLIES' CAUSE.

The revolutionary committee, in a manifesto, affirming the determination to stand alongside Great Britain and the other Allies and to fulfil Portugal's international obligations.

Senhor Machado will temporarily remain President of the Republic, but Senhor Pimentado Castro will replace him after the revolutionary Cabinet has been formed.

THE HALIFAX CATASTROPHE.

LONDON, December 9th.

A telegram from Montreal states that the latest figures show the death list at Halifax to number over two thousand, and there are five thousand injured.

The blizzard is intensifying the suffering.

Owing to lack of accommodation, the dead are piled in parks and open spaces as they are extricated from the ruins.

Sir Robert Borden, who had been speaking at Amherst, went to Halifax and helped with the organisation of relief.

HEAVIEST LOSS AMONGST CHILDREN.

NEW YORK, December 9th.

A Halifax telegram states that 20,000 people are destitute.

The damage is estimated at \$2,000,000.

The heaviest loss of life was amongst the children, some schools being wiped out.

It is stated that the munition ship carried 4,000 tons of TNT to the town.

The explosion caused a forty-foot tidal wave, which washed over the railroad, destroying four hundred cars and a score of locomotives.

THE SILVER MARKET.

WEEKLY REPORT.

LONDON, December 9th.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu's silver market report is as follows:—The market has maintained its quiet and steady tone.

Should the report that the Government is acquiring a hundred million ounces of silver for delivery in 1918 be correct, this would be equal to fifty per cent. of the world's probable production, while, if only the United States' output is purchased it would be equal to about thirty-seven and a half per cent.

The Indian note circulation has fallen by 147 lakhs, and the silver holding by 104 lakhs, but the gold holding has been increased by 47 lakhs.

SILVER QUIET.

LONDON, December 10th.

The silver market is quiet.

TRUE FREEDOM OF THE SEA.

SIR JOHN MACDONELL ON GERMAN CLAIMS.

SIR JOHN MACDONELL lectured at University College recently on "The True Freedom of the Sea—a Chapter in International Law."

Drawing attention to the persistent use of the phrase "freedom of the sea" by the Central Powers as a justification of their conduct and their future policy, he examined the history of the phrase, and showed the great variety of conflicting meanings attached to it by statesmen and Governments.

As used by Grotius it meant freedom to navigate and fish in the open sea without let or hindrance; his exposition was a restatement of the Roman law. Of that freedom England, common calumnies to the contrary notwithstanding, had been one of the earliest champions. Not Grotius, as the common belief was, but Elizabeth might be said to be the first true defender of the principle. No one had protested more strongly than she against the "high strain of sovereignty" on the part of Princes who claimed for any State special powers over the open sea.

It was true that some of her successors, especially James, asserted the doctrine of England's lordship of the narrow seas. But that claim was early practically abandoned, and a significant fact, after Trafalgar, it was formally dropped by the Admiralty. England had followed a policy of liberality which few States had imitated. There might be said to exist still one exception to the freedom of the seas; the claim of Turkey, as to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, was an anomaly. But within this exception freedom of the seas existed in time of peace for all but pirates.

Coming to the many loose uses of the phrase, in time of war, Sir John Macdonell showed how England had struggled at the Conference at The Hague for the protection of neutrals against mines; how Germany had opposed our efforts and how our representatives had been treated with contempt. The English proposals, attached to the phrase by Napoleon and repeated often verbatim by German statesmen, Sir John showed how England had made, since 1856, concession after concession. Chief among the strange uses to-day of the phrase was the fact that in the mouths of many German statesmen it had come to be the conventional description of their impatience at the extent and diversity of the British Empire, and the advantage, commercial, naval and military, incident thereto. It had also, as the lecturer showed from extracts, come to mean a claim for paramountcy at sea by Germany. It was much as if the Red Cross or white flag were placed over an ammunition dump or gun emplacement.

Some German publicists, recognizing that domination on land must be limited, that the sea was impossible, without domination on sea, had in effect avowed that such was their real meaning and purpose. The evolution was complete; the phrase had come to signify the opposite of what it did originally. Fancy, exclaimed Sir John, a dialogue between Grotius and von Tirpitz as to the freedom of the seas! It was not an accident that the United States had intervened with armed force in Western affairs twice or thrice, and always for a like object—against the Barbary pirates and the planners of the U-boat campaign.

Sir John Macdonell also referred to the significance of the phrase in the mouths of those who were apprehensive of the future position of German shipping and of those who were anxious to keep her colonies, if their country, having lost her ports belonging to the Allies, they meant acquiring rights in other nations' territories. He pointed out that many questions as to international maritime law were still perilously obscure and unsettled. He also referred to rules which had become obsolete or needed revision in view of present experience. The position of the neutrals, when he really existed, invited consideration and attention. Our law as to him, when measures of reprisals were resorted to, was somewhat indefinite; an international tribunal might interpret the law, as on former occasions it has done, against us.

The lecturer concluded by pointing out that there was a possible new and important development of international law, a possible creation of a new section for the enforcement of the terms of any treaty of peace providing for reparation on the part of Germany, by concerted policy as to the conditions upon which access to the Allies' ports should be granted. But a necessary preliminary was the dropping of a phrase which had at least six different meanings, and some five of them such as Grotius would have repudiated, a phrase which generally covered the position for increasing the naval strength of Germany and depriving this country of the advantages incident to her belonging to a widespread Empire.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AT TWENTY-FIVE.

Australian officers at the front are engaged in breaking records. A little while ago it was announced that Australia had produced the youngest Colonel, the date of his birth being 1888. Now it appears a still younger officer has been appointed to a rank.

Robert Aubrey Roy, son of the late Major-General Aubrey Roy, having been appointed in April last Lieutenant-Colonel after having commanded the 2nd Battalion A.I.F. since November 8th, 1915. Colonel Wilshire, before enlisting in the A.I.F. was an officer of the Royal Australian Air Force, and has won the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

He enlisted in the Tenth Borderers on July 1st, 1913, and in the 2nd Battalion A.I.F. March 1915, as a second lieutenant, under Colonel Cronch, whose place as C.O. 2nd Battalion he now fills.

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